

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-03 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0497

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, CDES KHORMAN, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF HORMAN REMAINS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 424; (B) SANTIAGO 178

1. DURING MY JANUARY 25 TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER (REF A),
I RAISED THIS SUBJECT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

2. WHEN THE HORMAN REMAINS WERE FINALLY IDENTIFIED ON
OCTOBER 18, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MORGUE ASKED THE EMBASSY
WHETHER WE WISHED THE REMAINS CREMATED FOR SHIPMENT TO THE
UNITED STATES. IN OTHER WORDS, SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINS
PERSUANT TO CHILEAN SANITARY REGULATIONS COULD HAVE BEEN
EFFECTED AT THAT TIME. SINCE THAT TIME WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING
AN EXEMPTION FROM NORMAL CHILEAN SANITARY REGULATIONS IN ORDER
TO PERMIT THE SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINS IN THEIR NATURAL STATE
IN KEEPING WITH THE WISHES OF MR. HORMAN'S FATHER AND HIS
WIDOW. MORE THAN A MONTH AGO I SPOKE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER
ABOUT THIS MATTER. UNFORTUNATELY, AT THIS DATE THERE IS STILL
NO DECISION. IT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT IF THE POSSIBILITY
STILL EXISTS OF A NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR THE
EXEMPTION, NO ONE IN THE UNITED STATES INTERESTED IN THIS
CASE WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE
IS UNABLE TO OVERCOME A SIMPLE SANITARY REGULATION IN ORDER
TO COMPLY WITH THE WISHES OF THE HORMAN FAMILY. NEVERTHELESS,
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE, IT IS GREATLY TO THE
ADVANTAGE OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE THIS MATTER
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ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND REMOVE IT AS A SENSITIVE PENDING ITEM

IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. ADMIRAL HUERTA REPLIED THAT THE DECISION ON OUR REQUEST RESTS WITH THE JUNTA. HE SPECULATED THAT THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO US MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO SOME SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE SERIES OF QUESTIONS WHICH THE EMBASSY PRESENTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT THE HORMAN CASE. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THE JUNTA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A DECISION. HE AGREED THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO SETTLE THE MATTER PROMPTLY.
THOMPSON

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